

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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R 091003Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5070

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3282

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, SW, CH

SUBJECT: LEFTWING EXTREMISTS AND CIVIL LIBERTARIANS ASSAIL

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WIRE-TAPPING

1. BEGIN GDS. SWEDEN'S NORMAL SUMMER CALM HAS BEEN DISTURBED OF LATE BY LEFTWING EXTREMIST AND CIVIL LIBERTARIAN PROTESTS OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S WIRE-TAPPING ACTIVITIES. ISSUE SURFACED WHEN YOUNG TELEPHONE WORKER BELONGING TO KFMLR, A SMALL SPLINTER COMMUNIST PARTY, REVEALED TO A NEWSAPEPR THAT SWEDISH SECURITY POLICE (SAPO) WAS BUGGING A TELEPHONE IN KFMLR BOOKSHOP. THE RESULTING BUILDUP OF ALLEGATIONS AND RUMORS IN THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV HAVE EMBARRASSED GOVERNMENT AND PLACED IT ON DEFENSIVE. PARTICULARLY PROVOCATIVE WAS STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL INGVAR GULLNAS IN WHICH HE SAID THAT GROUPS OF PEOPLE BELONGING TO EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS HAVE THEIR PHONES TAPPED REGULARLY AND HINTED FURTHER THAT FOREIGN EMBASSIES ARE NOT IMMUNE IF QUESTION OF ILLEGAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IS INVOLVED.

2. WHEN INTENSITY OF PUBLIC DEBATE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DEMINISHING, JUSTICE MINISTER LENNART GEIJER INTERRUPTED
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HIS VACATIONAND RETURNED TO STOCKHOLM ON JULY 7 TO DEAL

WITH PROBLEM. HE DECLARED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IN A "WHITE PAPER" WHICH WOULD REVEAL FOLLOWING: (1) ONLY 7 SWEDES ARE CURRENTLY BEING WIRE-TAPPED BECAUSE THEY ARE SUSPECTED OF CRIMES THREATENING NATIONAL SECURITY; (2) NUMBER OF SWEDES WHOSE TELEPHONES ARE TAPPED FOR SIMILAR REASONS TOTALS NO MORE THAN ABOUT 10 EACH YEAR; (3) NEITHER CENTER PARTY NOR SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS SWEDISH-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND SWEDEN-SOVIET ASSOCIATION HAVE, AS ALLEGED, HAD THEIR TELEPHONES TAPPED; (4) AT END OF JUNE, TAPPING OF SKP TELEPHONES WAS STOPPED. (COMMENT: SKP IS ANOTHER OF SWEDEN'S SPLINTER COMMUNIST PARTIES.)

3. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TAPPING HAD STRENGTHENED SUSPICION THAT PARTY "HAD RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY FROM A FOREIGN POWER." GEIJER CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THAT WIRE-TAPPING IS USED MAINLY IN CONNECTION WITH SERIOUS NARCOTIC CRIMES. END GDS.

4. BEGIN XGDS-1. COMMENT: WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SAW PRIME MINISTER PALME ON OTHER BUSINESS JULY 7, PALME TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO MENTION THE TROUBLES OVER WIRE-TAPPING. HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS TAPPED WAS "ONLY 7" AND THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE LINKED TO THE FACT THAT THE CHINESE EMBASSY HAS "FOOLISHLY" BEEN FUNDING EXTREME LEFTWING ACTIVITY IN SWEDEN. HE SAID THE GOS PLANNED NO APPROACH TO THE CHINESE BECAUSE, SOPHISTICATED AS THEY ARE, THE CHINESE "KNOW THAT WE KNOW" AND ARE LIKELY TO DESIST. END XGDS-1.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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